

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 PRS-01 PA-01 RSR-01 /055 W

----- 094692

R 300610Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1902

SECDEF WASHDC

CJCS WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC CP SMITH HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6544

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: JOURNALIST'S ATTEMPT TO CALL US AIR STRIKES

1. ON 25 JUNE AN AMERICAN VOICE COMING UP ON FM RADIO FROM HOTEL 47 ON ROUTE 4 ASKED FAC TO CALL IN NAPALM. FAC NAIL 67 REQUESTED AUTHENTICATION, WHICH WAS CORRECTLY SUPPLIED. FAC THEN ASKED THE MAN'S NAME; THE AMERICAN VOICE REPLIED WITH AN OBSCENTIIY. NO REPEAT NO ORDNANCE WAS DROPPED IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST NOR WOULD FAC RESPOND FURTHER TO THE CALLS.

2. LOCAL SOURCES TELL US THAT THE AUTHOR OF THIS STUNT IS NICK-NAMED "CAPTIAN AMERICA", ALLEGEDLY A MUSTERED-OUT FORMER GREEN BERET. MOST SOURCES AGREE HIS FIRST NAME IS JUSTIN; LAST NAME MAY BE PETERSON; POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION HAS NOT BEE POSSIBLE.

3. FANK IS TAKING DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST HOTEL 47.

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4. INCIDENT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN PHNOMPENH PRESS

CORPS, BUT GARBLED VERSIONS ARE FREQUENT. IN PARTICULAR, SOME CORRESPONDENTS (NOTABLY NYT'S MALCOLM BROWNE) APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT "CAPTAIN AMERICA" WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CALLING IN AIR STRIKES, AND THAT THE GKR AND/OR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY MAY HAVE HAD HIM EJECTED FROM THE COUNTRY. AS OCCASION ARISES, WE ARE MAKING THE POINTS (A) JOURNALIST DID NOT REPEAT NOT SUCCEED IN CALLING IN AIR STRIKES; (B) US EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF EXACT IDENTITY OF JOURNALIST IN QUESTION, OR HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS; AND (C) WE UNDERSTAND FANK IS TAKING STEPS TO MAKE SURE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS DO NOT OCCUR AGAIN.

5. COMUSSAG MAY WISH TO COMMENT, AND OFFER SUGGESTIONS ON PRESS HANDLING.
SWANK

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM06544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973061/aaaaaaci.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOURNALIST'S ATTEMPT TO CALL US AIR STRIKES
TAGS: MOPS, CB
To: SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC CJCS WASHDC USIA CINCPAC CP SMITH HI COMUSSAG NKP THAI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005